

Testimony 9/12/2017
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I have been with school districts for over 20 years and have been with Electric Choice Programs in my previous district and with my current district. School Districts over the years have been looking for ways to save money and we have been looking at every line item in our budgets and utilities has been a place that we have been able to save. Several school districts over the State have taken advantage of these Choice Programs with approximately 25% savings to our budgets.

Clarkston Community Schools is on Electric Choice and is saving over \$289,000 per year (\$40 per student) vs DTE Full Service Base Rates. This is equivalent to 5.0 Teachers. Clarkston's savings on choice since the beginning is approximately \$3,184,000. My understanding is that all of Oakland County Schools are saving approximately \$7 million a year on the Choice Programs. Can you imagine how many Teacher jobs that is saving?

Eliminating Electric Choice impacts Students because districts funding has already been cut and resources are at all-time low. Further cuts will be staff. School budgets are over 80% personnel. Moving us away from Choice Programs will affect the classroom.

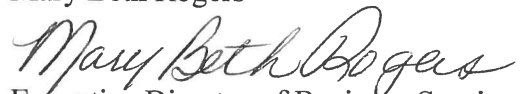
We cannot afford to go back to non-choice and we do not have the financial capacity to absorb increases to our electric expenses. Every expenditure increase results in a cut somewhere else in school districts.

Clarkson and many other school districts are in long term contracts. We are currently in a 2 year contract that expires December 2019 at 25% savings from DTE rates. Forcing us to leave our contracts will results in more school reductions.

In conclusion, as school districts who are on limited funds with little or no increases, we need to have the right to Choice! We cannot afford to have this program eliminated.

Again thanks for this opportunity to share my concerns,

Mary Beth Rogers


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